

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the claim amendments as provided on the following pages and in the simplified amendment format as set forth by the Deputy Commissioner. See Pre-OG Notice, January 31, 2003 (discussing the PTO's proposed revision to and waiver of current 37 C.F.R. § 1.121). No new matter has been added by these amendments as they are fully supported by the original claims and the specification at page 22, ll. 8-25.

Claims 93-102 and 104-121 are currently pending.

Claims 1-52/~~(Previously cancelled)~~

Claims 53-70/~~(Cancelled)~~

Claims 71-92/~~(Previously cancelled)~~

Claim 93 is amended as follows:

93. (Currently Amended) An input device for generating signals that represent input requests by a user, said device comprising:

a base portion having a top surface;

four primary keys disposed on said top surface;

at least one position-responsive input value selector that is responsive to a position of the top surface within a substantially horizontal plane; [and].

a signal generator operatively connected to the primary keys and the position-responsive selector generating a first signal indicating a user input value selection and a second signal indicating user data input request; and

an input selection mechanism for permitting a user to operate said input device in a character selection mode or a cursor movement mode.

94. (Previously Added) The input device of claim 93, wherein the primary keys are disposed on the top surface such that each finger of a user's hand rests on a primary key.

95. (Previously Added) The input device of claim 94, wherein the primary keys are actuated without removing the finger from the primary key.
96. (Previously Added) The input device of claim 93, further comprising a thumb key.
97. (Previously Added) The input device of claim 93, wherein said position-responsive input value selector is responsive to changes in position along an Y- and/or Z-axis relative to a home state.
98. (Previously Added) The input device of claim 93, wherein the base portion comprises a stationary bottom portion and a movable upper portion and said changes in position are of said upper portion relative to said stationary bottom portion.
99. (Previously Added) The input device of claim 93, further comprising a second input device adapted for the other hand of the user.
100. (Previously Added) The input device of claim 97, wherein said base portion is movable on the surface upon which it is placed and said changes in position are of the entire base portion relative to its position prior to moving.
101. (Previously Added) The input device of claim 100, wherein said input value selector is a mouse mechanism.
102. (Previously Added) The input device of claim 98, wherein said selector is a joystick mechanism.
103. (Cancelled)
104. (Previously Added) The input device of claim 93, further comprising means for navigating between multiple blocks of selective input values, wherein each block has at least three sets of values for each input key.

[Please add claims 105-121 as follows:]

105. (New) An input device for generating signals that represent input requests by a user, said device comprising:

a base portion having a top surface;

four primary keys disposed on said top surface, wherein said four primary keys are located in a substantially horizontal plane;

at least one position-responsive input value selector that is responsive to a position of the top surface within a substantially horizontal plane; and

a signal generator operatively connected to the primary keys and the position-responsive selector generating a first signal indicating a user input value selection and a second signal indicating user data input request.

106. (New) The input device of claim 105, wherein the wherein the top surface is configured to permit a user's hand to be positioned on said top surface such that the user's palm surface is substantially parallel to said top surface.

107. (New) The input device of claim 105, further comprising a rotation mechanism which permits a user to rotate the control portion with respect to the base portion, wherein the signal generator is operatively connected to the rotational mechanism and generates a signal indicating rotational position of the control portion with respect to the base portion.

108. (New) The input device of claim 105, further comprising a thumb key.

109. (New) The input device of claim 108, wherein one of said four primary keys and said thumb key is provided for each digit of a hand.

110. (New) The input device of claim 105, wherein said position-responsive input value selector is responsive to changes in position along an Y- and/or Z-axis relative to a home state.

111. (New) The input device of claim 105, wherein the base portion comprises a stationary bottom portion and a movable upper portion and said changes in position are of said upper portion relative to said stationary bottom portion.
112. (New) The input device of claim 105, further comprising a second input device adapted for the other hand of the user.
113. (New) The input device of claim 105, wherein said base portion is movable on the surface upon which it is placed and said changes in position are of the entire base portion relative to its position prior to moving.
114. (New) The input device of claim 105, further comprising an input selection mechanism for permitting a user to operate said input device in a character selection mode or a cursor movement mode.
115. (New) The input device of claim 105, further comprising means for navigating between multiple blocks of selective input values, wherein each block has at least three sets of values for each input key.
116. (New) A computer system comprising:
at least one input device comprising:
a base portion having a top surface;
four primary keys disposed on said top surface;
at least one position-responsive input value selector that is responsive to a position of the top surface within a substantially horizontal plane; and
a signal generator operatively connected to the primary keys and the position-responsive selector generating a first signal indicating a user input value selection and a second signal indicating user data input request;
a processor operatively connected to said signal generator for receiving and processing said first and second signals;
a display operatively connected to the processor; and

a character selection graphic displayed on the display, the character selection graphic comprising a plurality of character selection icons, each of the icons corresponding to a character, wherein the character selection icons are selected by moving or positioning the top surface relative to the base portion and selectively engaging one of the four primary keys.

117. (New) The computer system of claim 116, wherein the character selection graphic comprises a plurality of groupings of character selection icons, each grouping of character selection icons comprising a plurality of rows of character selection icons.

118. (New) The computer system of claim 117, wherein each primary key on the top surface corresponds to a character selection icon in the row of character selection icons.

119. (New) The computer system of claim 116, wherein said input device further comprises an input selection mechanism for permitting a user to operate said input device in a character selection mode or a cursor movement mode.

120. (New) The computer system of claim 116, wherein said four primary keys are located in a substantially horizontal plane.

121. (New) The computer system of claim 116, further comprising a second input device adapted for the other hand of the user.
